

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shingo SUGIHARA et al.

Attn: PCT Branch

Application No. New U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP03/04971

Filed: October 14, 2004

Docket No.: 121474

For: RUBBER CRAWLER RUNNING DEVICE

**TRANSLATION OF THE ANNEXES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/409). The attached translated material replaces the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 14, 2004

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CLAIMS

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

1. A rubber crawler running device which includes a drive wheel connected to a drive shaft of a vehicle body, an idler wheel, and a rubber crawler having rubber projections formed on an inner peripheral surface thereof at predetermined intervals, lower end portions of the drive wheel and the idler wheel being disposed near a running surface, the rubber crawler being wound around the drive wheel and the idler wheel and contacting the running surface, wherein the drive wheel is formed so that engaging teeth thereof which engage with the rubber projections are exposed at right and left sides, and further comprising a guide skirt body fixed to the vehicle body, which guide skirt body is disposed at an outer side of engaging portions of the drive wheel and the rubber crawler with a predefined clearance with respect to a widthwise direction of the engaging portions.

2. The rubber crawler running device of claim 1, wherein the drive wheel includes a central portion, and engaging teeth, which engaging teeth are formed radially from the central portion and engage with surfaces of the rubber projections in a longitudinal direction of the rubber crawler.

3. The rubber crawler running device of claim 1, wherein the rubber projections are formed on a protruding streak continuously formed on the inner peripheral surface of the rubber crawler.

4. The rubber crawler running device of claim 1, wherein the guide skirt body is provided so as to correspond to the periphery of the drive wheel at a portion thereof not abutting a road surface.

5. The rubber crawler running device of claim 1 or 4, wherein the total width of the gaps between the rubber projections and the guide skirt bodies at the right and left sides is equal to or less than the width of the rubber projection in a transverse direction thereof.